

WEST BOYLSTON OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Animal Medical Center, Conference Room
29 Prospect Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

Monday, November 2, 2009

Members Present: Dr. Tashjian, Ray DeSanti, Brenda Bowman, Barbara Wyatt, Vin Vignaly

Members Absent: Jim Edmundson,

Others Present: Larry Salate (Planning Board Chair)

Dr. Tashjian called the meeting to order at 7:05. Vignaly to be clerk for the meeting.

The minutes from October 5, 2009 meeting were not available. Approval should occur at the next meeting.

It was noted that a letter from the committee was sent to Mr. Jeffrey Simon, Director of Infrastructure Investments.

Dr. Tashjian noted receipt of a letter of resignation from Brian Bjorklund. A letter of thanks and appreciation will be sent to Brian for his conscientious work with this committee. Motion Barbara, second Ray, unanimous.

Dr. Tashjian reviewed recent activity to save Malden Brook Farm and the Last Frontier. He noted that he has had meetings with Steven Quist and Caspian Associates, but they are not focused in the direction he sees for the farm. He wants to see the property remain a working farm and not become an "amusement park".

Dr. Tashjian noted that he is concerned with the APR limitations being made on the property. The MassDAR needs to clarify and make allowances as noted in the letter drafted by Jim Edmundson.

He noted that DCR has been a positive force at the farm through Jim French and Paula Packard. He wants to work with them to increase the haying potential at all the old farms that the DCR purchased, including Antinarella on Prospect St.; Smith on Prescott St.; Giobellina on Fairbanks St.; Baldarelli on Goodale Street; and other lands in Sterling. Vinny noted that Sterling is updating their OS&R plan and we should review it and make comments to coordinate activities that benefit both towns.

Dr. Tashjian noted that the website for A Biosurveillance Center at Malden Brook is under construction and will be connected to the AVMF website. Their new slogan is "Save the horses and natural resources"! He said there is a need for volunteers and funding support. An initial meeting to inventory the vehicles and farm equipment, was planned, noting action items for immediate and long term needs. Larry, Ray, Brenda, and Vinny volunteered to meet the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day. An initial meeting was held with Diana and Steve Quist, which was a good start that needs focus to get funding support opportunities moving. Diana will move forward with her process.

Discussion of November 16, Economic Development Task Force Committee Meeting. Barbara will note the international "draw" of the Malden Brook Farm and regional importance of the Rail Trail that if business could focus on opportunities associated with these may increase the benefits to the Town.

Vinny reported that there has been no progress by the Worcester Land Trust in contacting the owners of property of interest on Lee Street or Prospect Street near the Town Well. Vinny requested suggestions for other land acquisition opportunities and only the Massolini farm on Lancaster Street was mentioned. Ray noted that only a 2-acre parcel where the house is located is the only portion that is for sale.

Vinny began discussion on the Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal Procedure that was circulated. It was voted to send it to Selectmen with a cover letter requesting that they consider enacting it as Town Policy. Barbara motioned second Ray, unanimous.

Brenda reported that the Historic Commission is in support of transferring the River Road/Rail Trail properties to the DCR. Larry and Brenda suggested expanding the Rail Trail to River Road and utilizing the whole area as a new recreation area that would qualify under the Community Preservation Committee's funding programs. This will be discussed further at the next meeting with Diana and Vinny will email Patrick Inderwish of the Parks Commission to get his thoughts on this as well as the anticipated plan for the "Pine Grove" area now that it has very few pines.

Dr. Tashjian reminded members that we were invited to attend the Town-Wide Planning Committee meeting on December 1. Vinny noted that a suggestion should be made to incorporate Open Spaces and Recreation within the Housing/40B projects.

Next meeting was set for Monday December 7 at 7:00 at the Animal Medical Center.

Brenda motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:30, seconded by Ray. Unanimous.

Submitted by: _____ Approved: 12/7/09
Vincent P. Vignaly